



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/790,742	03/03/2004	John F. Duprey	24410.00	2875
7590	07/09/2004		EXAMINER	
Richard C. Litman LITMAN LAW OFFICES, LTD. P.O. Box 15035 Arlington, VA 22215			GRAHAM, GARY K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1744	

DATE MAILED: 07/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/790,742	DUPREY, JOHN F.	
	Examiner Gary K Graham	Art Unit 1744	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 9-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03032004</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 9, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones (US patent 2,117,174).

The patent to Jones discloses a scalloped edge as is claimed (fig.1). Note planar rubber strip (13) which has a beveled scalloped edge (16). The intended use of the edge of “for a dustpan” or that it is “adapted for attachment to a front end of a blade of the dustpan” does not define any structure not shown or disclosed by Jones. The strip of Jones could be used in any manner so desired, nothing would prevent such.

Claims 9, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Calame (US patent 2,252,879).

The patent to Calame discloses a scalloped edge as is claimed (fig.5). Note planar metal strip (124) which has edge (126) with beveled scallops (261) thereon. The intended use of the edge of "for a dustpan" or that it is "adapted for attachment to a front end of a blade of the dustpan" does not define any structure not shown or disclosed by Calame. The strip of Calame could be used in any manner so desired, nothing would prevent such.

Claims 9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meyerhoefer (US patent 3,118,165).

The patent to Meyerhoefer discloses a scalloped edge as is claimed (figs.9,11). Note planar rubber strip (30) which has an edge with scallops (33) thereon. The intended use of the edge of "for a dustpan" or that it is "adapted for attachment to a front end of a blade of the dustpan" does not define any structure not shown or disclosed by Meyerhoefer. The strip of Meyerhoefer could be used in any manner so desired, nothing would prevent such.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyerhoefer (US patent 3,118,165) in view of Gringer (US patent 5,809,605).

The patent to Meyerhoefer discloses all of the above recited subject matter with the exception of the blade being of plastic material.

The patent to Ginger discloses a squeegee assembly wherein the blade (6) can be made of plastics material.

It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to make the blade of Meyerhoefer of plastic material instead of rubber, as clearly suggested by Gringer, as an inexpensive substitute to the rubber material. Further, the choice of materials for the squeegee blade appears an obvious design choice based more of the choice of the manufacturer and the availability of materials than on any inventive concept. Plastics and rubbers are well known, art recognized substitutes for one another.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 are allowed.

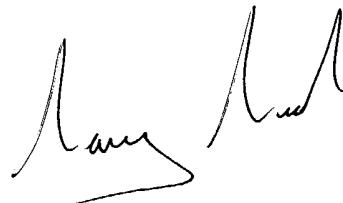
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary K Graham whose telephone number is 571-272-1274. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday (6:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Warden can be reached on 571-272-1281. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



A handwritten signature consisting of two stylized, upward-sweeping strokes connected by a curved line.

Gary K Graham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1744

GKG
08 July 2004